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Social Studies Grade 4

Standard 6040-02. Students trace the emergence and development of culture in Utah.

Objective 6040-0202. Trace the development of Utah's culture.

Essential Question 1. How did the tipi play a role in the lives of Utah Native Americans as well as other tribes who adopted the tipi as their primary dwelling.

Assessment evidence. Completion of a tipi in class. Use Reginald and Gladys Laubin's book to make a small pattern for a Sioux or Cheyenne tipi that could be cut out of construction paper. (see pp.26 and 235) Print these out and have the class cut out their tipis. Glue the front together or use toothpicks for the lacing pins after gluing and have the class decorate their mini-tipi in an authentic manner.

Have students work in groups to write a short report on how life in a tipi would be for Native American kids their age. Have the groups include dress, food, toys, and entertainment.

Tipi Lesson Plan

Background Information

For more than 400 years, knowledgeable people have agreed that the Indian tipi is absolutely the finest of all moveable shelters. To the Native peoples whose concept of life and religion was deeper and infinitely more unified than his conqueror, the tipi was much more. Both home and church the tipi was a Sacred Being and sharing with family, nature and Creator. The tipi allowed the Plains Indians to move entire villages to suit the seasons and to be nearer to a good supply of food, wood & fresh supply for their horses.



Tipis can provide a "passageway back through time" that allow us to actually experience some of the aspects of the unique nomadic culture of the Plains. You set up the tipi using the same material and step through the same doorway as those early ancestors. You can experience that same warmth from a fire glowing in the center of the tipi. You can sit back and experience with this present day dwelling what it must have been like to sleep and hear a wolf howl or just listen to the wind in its natural setting. You can begin to

experience how those early cultures developed a respect and closeness to the natural world around them.

Teacher Resources

1. **Storm Maker's Tipi**, by Paul Goble, Atheneum/Richard Jackson Books (October 1, 2001) ISBN: 068984137X
2. **Daily Life in a Plains Village 1868**, by Michael Badhand Terry
<http://www.warriorsplus.com/>
3. **Anthropological Illustrations**, <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/naa/kiowa/mooney.htm>
4. **The Indian Tipi – Its history, construction and use** by Reginald & Gladys Laubin pp.225-265. - Ballantine Books (December 12, 1981) ISBN 430425X
5. **Tipi Photos**
<http://www.tipi.com/photogallery.html>

Lesson Development

1. Read **Storm Maker's Tipi**, by Paul Goble (see teacher resources above....) There are great pictures that can be printed out to use as visual aids, or could be accessed with a computer and a projector. These could be used to enhance the story and let the kids see what some of the more ancient tipi designs would have been. There are great pictures on Michael Terry's site as well. These are photos of tipi design that are reproductions of ancient forms.